Strategic storage of crude oil

5066. SHRIGHULAMNABIAZAD:
DR.T. SUBBARAM1REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high power committee of the Planning Commission has strongly recommended strategic storage of crude oil for ensuring oil security in the country;

(b) if so, whether the strategic storage of crude oil has assumed greater importance now due to significant build-up of refining capacity in the country;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF PERTROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRISANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Steering Committee on energy sector of Planning Commission for the Tenth Plan recommended maintenance of strategic reserves and developing a mechanism for funding these reserves. No decision has been taken in this regard as yet.

Marketing strategy of oil companies

5067. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of marketing and distribution strategies of Government owned oil companies in view of the withdrawal of APM and the proposed entry of private companies;

(b) whether Government propose to allow competition among these Government owned oil companies so that consumer is fully benefited; and

(c) what steps Government would like to take so that the marketing and distribution costs are brought down to the minimum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have signed agreements among themselves for products and hospitality arrangements in line with the distribution system prevailing before the dismantling of Administered Price Mechanism (APM) for a period of two years with effect from 1.4.2002.

(b) OMCs would be free to decide the price of petroleum products except LPG (domestic) and PDS Kerosene and due to the entry of new companies in the marketing of transportation fuels, it is expected that competitive services will be available to the customers.

(c) OMCs will make industry logistic plan every month on 'least landed cost' basis to ensure the marketing and distribution of petroleum products at the bare minimum cost.

LPG agencies in Rajasthan

5068. SHRISANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG agencies operating in Rajasthan;

(b) the number of consumers served by each of those agencies; and

(c) the details of the number of LPG connections given by them during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OPf ETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b)The total number of LPG agencies operating by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in Rajasthan as on 1.1.2002 were 342 catering to 24.73 lakh LPG consumers.

(c) The number of LPG connections released by the LPG agencies of OMCs in the State of Rajasthan during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were 3.22 lakh and 5.42 lakh respectively.

Shortage of gas for power projects in Gujarat

† 5069. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects in Gujarat which have not be completed due to the shortage of gas; and

(b) what is the time bound plan proposed by Government to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the terms and conditions of gas supply contract for the power projects, it is envisaged to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.